

House Resolution 1665

By: Representative Reece of the 27<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing April 8, 2006, as Minority Entrepreneurship Education Day in Georgia; and for  
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, it is vitally important to provide entrepreneurship education and training to  
4 prospective minority entrepreneurs who have the desire and the ability to build and sustain  
5 innovative enterprises; and

6 WHEREAS, there are over 100 historically black colleges and universities in the nation with  
7 none having any significant entrepreneurship program, and it is a widely known fact that  
8 wealth creation is positively linked to entrepreneurship; and

9 WHEREAS, to facilitate wealth creation among African-American young men and women,  
10 it is imperative that historically black colleges and universities develop and offer quality  
11 entrepreneurship programs to students; and

12 WHEREAS, Opportunity Funding Corporation, headed by Mr. Jesse Hill, Jr., the retired  
13 CEO of Atlanta Life, in its meeting during mid-2000, approved organizing a business plan  
14 competition for the historically black colleges and universities as a part of efforts to enhance  
15 the abilities of African-American students wanting to become entrepreneurs; and

16 WHEREAS, Dr. Edward Davis, the Dean of the School of Business at Clark Atlanta  
17 University, recommended Dr. Mohammad Bhuiyan as the Founding Director of Opportunity  
18 Funding Corporation Venture Challenge to provide necessary leadership for the successful  
19 implementation of the ambitious plan; and

20 WHEREAS, the Opportunity Funding Corporation Board selected the City of Atlanta as the  
21 competition's venue; and

1 WHEREAS, during the inaugural event in 2001, seven universities participated; the number  
2 of participating universities went up to 12 in 2002; and 16 historically black colleges and  
3 universities participated in the competition in 2003; and

4 WHEREAS, in 2004, 20 universities sent teams to present business plans; in 2005, 21  
5 universities sent teams to the competition; and this year more than 40 are expected to  
6 participate; and

7 WHEREAS, the program has been gaining popularity among students, faculty, leading  
8 business executives, and many others, providing opportunities for students to be able to look  
9 at the big picture and apply all of their conceptual and theoretical knowledge; and

10 WHEREAS, feedback from students, faculty, and judges clearly demonstrates the need for  
11 the continuation of the program; and

12 WHEREAS, the Sixth Annual Business Plan Competition for HBCU Students, Fifth Annual  
13 HBCU Dean/Faculty Development Seminar, and First Annual National Policy Forum all will  
14 be held in Atlanta April 6 through April 9, 2006, with participation by more than 40 colleges  
15 and universities, seven foundations, and 40 major corporations; and

16 WHEREAS, national dialogue through a policy forum on minority entrepreneurship  
17 education is in progress to get academic, business, foundation, entrepreneurial, government,  
18 and other leaders involved in the minority entrepreneurship education issues and encourage  
19 them to take active roles in preparing minority young men and women to become  
20 entrepreneurs; and

21 WHEREAS, the Minority Entrepreneurship Education, Inc., the Kauffman Foundation, and  
22 Opportunity Funding Corporation, Inc. are three major sponsors of the events in addition to  
23 more than 40 other corporations, including many Georgia corporations; and

24 WHEREAS, local minority colleges and universities are benefiting tremendously from this  
25 program with local minority entrepreneurs and aspiring entrepreneurs also taking advantage  
26 of all the program has to offer; and

27 WHEREAS, many more activities are planned to help local schools and minority young men  
28 and women; and

1 WHEREAS, impressive progress has been made since 2000; and

2 WHEREAS, all participants of the 2006 Opportunity Funding Corporation Venture  
3 Challenge and Minority Entrepreneurship Education Summit here in Atlanta are to be praised  
4 and congratulated.

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
6 the members of this body join in recognizing April 8, 2006, as Minority Entrepreneurship  
7 Education Day in Georgia and call this observance to the attention of our citizens.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
9 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Minority Entrepreneurship  
10 Education, Inc., the Kauffman Foundation, and Opportunity Funding Corporation, Inc.